



## Tempe Art in Private Development



### Medtronic Office Building 9

2001 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Place

### Southwest Public Art Group: Niki Glen & Helen Helwig

*Courtyard Sculpture Garden, 2001*

Metal, bas relief clay, stone

Artist website:

[www.GlenStudios.com](http://www.GlenStudios.com)

[www.HelwigStudio.com](http://www.HelwigStudio.com)

Photo: Craig Smith

**Description:** Seven metal sculptures with handmade bas relief clay features are showcased within a landscaped courtyard which includes water features. The artwork and water features are integral parts of this project and enhance the courtyard area as it becomes a unified meditative garden. The sculpture designs relate to and enhance the surrounding plants, boulders, and water features of the landscaping. The artists' design decisions, color choices, and overall concepts were developed by studying the flora and fauna of the Sonoran Desert ecosystem. Some of the clay and metal surface treatments are also influenced by the ancient Anasazi and Hohokam cultures.

**Artist biography:** Southwest Public Art Group (SWPAG), comprised of professional artists Helen Helwig and Niki Glen, specializes in high-quality public, corporate, and individual art commissions that both delight the eye and enhance community life. Commissioned projects have included installations at a hospital, a public library, an office complex entryway, and a bus shelter. Helwig is an award-winning clay designer and fabricator who develops innovative glaze techniques. Glen is an outstanding designer and muralist who has directed more than 50 public art projects. Both artists have directed many large-scale installations.

**Funding:** This project was funded by the individual developer, Medtronic Microelectronics Center, as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.